

Remarks

By the foregoing amendments, Applicants have cancelled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, no new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments, and entry and consideration of the same are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that in view of the foregoing amendments, the requirement made in Paper No. 6 for an election of one invention to prosecute in the present application is moot. In any event, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group II, represented by claims 52-68. This election is made without traverse, and without prejudice to or disclaimer of the remaining invention(s) disclosed and/or claimed in the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

Date: Jan. 14, 2003
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 371-2600

Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.